

The Judges (A House)

About 75 feet west of the northwest corner of
West Market Street and North Front Street,
near the Square

Georgetown

Sussex County

Delaware

HABS No. DEL-154

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

THE JUDGES (A HOUSE)

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Location: About 75 feet west of the northwest corner of West Market Street and North Front Street, near the Square, Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Original Owner: Built by Judge Peter Robinson

Brief Statement of Significance: Built in 1809, this house with its associated office building is representative of the town houses of lawyers and physicians of the period.

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The house in Georgetown, generally known as The Judges, is so named because its builder and first occupant was a Judge and several succeeding occupants likewise were Judges.

Built in 1809, The Judges is a frame two-story-and-attic house with a wing extension at the rear, and another small one-story wing at the east side. It is a five-bay cypress-shingled structure with a central hall, and is one room deep so that the west-side rooms have windows that look out both on the street and on the garden at the rear.

Though built in the early nineteenth century, the general character of the exterior coincides with the manner of the late eighteenth century. The later influence is discernible only in the treatment of the dormer details and in the side-lights at the front door. The straight five-pane transom above the door is a distinctly Early Georgian feature.

The interior woodwork is very simple but good. There is no paneling to speak of. The handsome dark grey marble mantels, of a pattern just coming into use at the beginning of the nineteenth century, show that the judge who built the house was quite abreast of the times in the matter of architectural fashion.

The little law office is a separate one-story building at the eastern corner of the front yard --- a dependency characteristic of the period for the town houses of lawyers and physicians, though generally annexed to the main body of the house.

Prepared by Harold Donaldson Eberlein
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